(c) and (d) Generally the progress of area sown in major cotton producing States during the current year is normal.

Loss of standing crops due to drought

†2766. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy losses are caused every year to standing crops in various regions of the country, by drought conditions caused by scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the estimates of losses to standing crops during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the quantum of crops so damaged and the States in which these crops have been damaged; and

(c) the corresponding percentage of the total losses, to the total agricultural production in those particular years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Natural calamities including drought do also cause damage of varying magnitude to crops, depending on intensity of the calamity. It is, however, difficult to estimate the damage caused to standing crops, resulting in loss of production of foodgrains, due to natural calamities. 5 States had reported drought situation during 1998-99, 11 States during 1999-2000 and 10 States during 2000-01. As per reports received from the States, about 90 lakh ha. crop area during 1998-99, 141 lakh ha. during 1999-2000 and 255 lakh ha. during 2000-01 have been affected by drought.

Food processing park at Ernakulam

2767. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted any proposal for setting up a food processing park at Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal, alongwith the action taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Food Processing Industries,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has received a proposal seeking financial assistance, under its plan scheme, for setting up of a Food Park at Kalamassery, District Ernakulam, Kerala from Government of Kerala. The project is proposed to be implemented by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA), a statutory body of Government of Kerala. Assistance has been sought from Department of Food Processing Industries in the form of grant in aid. Details/clarifications relating to allotment of land, appraisal report from Bank/Financial Institution, Means of Finance etc. have been sought from Government of Kerala for processing the request for assistance.

Revival of Public Sector Fertilizer Companies

2768. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive some sick fertilizer companies in the public sector;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and since when these companies have been functioning in poor state of financial health;

(c) how far installation capacity of these companies has been utilized during the last three years; and

(d) the estimated amount required to revive these companies to their full production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (HFC), Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and Projects and Development of India Ltd. (PDIL) were declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1992 and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL) in 2000. HFC, FCI and PDIL (except during 1995-96 to 1997-98 in the case of PDIL) have been incurring losses since 1978-79 whereas PPCL has been incurring losses since 1991-92. The rehabilitation/restructuring proposals of these four sick companies were considered by the competent authority in the Government on 31.5.2001 and a Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to examine these proposals and submit its recommendations.